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*John Sherman* By THEODORE E. BURTON. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1906. Pp. vi, 449.)

THERE has been a reasonable expectation that this new life, published in the *American Statesmen* series, would add materially to the knowledge of the character and career of Sherman, but unfortunately this hope is disappointed. If the author had access to private papers and letters, there is little evidence in this volume. Disappointment is the more keen because there are many passages in Sherman's life which require explanation for a clear understanding of the course of political events. The work is more a financial history than a biography of Sherman; as a history of taxation, national banking, silver, and government indebtedness, it is a sober and careful presentation; but pages, if not chapters, follow in rapid succession with hardly a reference to Sherman's influence on the life of his time. In many ways it is simply a condensation of Sherman's own *Recollections of Forty Years*, lacking, however, the frank and open judgments of men and motives which Sherman freely expressed. Possibly the author was overwhelmed by the mass of historical matter so near to his own life-time, and felt the necessity of arranging it in an orderly narrative; if so, he has done it at the sacrifice of personal detail. In this the book does not bear favorable comparison with Stanwood's *Blaine*, published in the same series. If these biographies are to win appreciation they must rely upon the assumption that the reader has acquaintance with the historical events of the period, and it is therefore to be hoped that in the succeeding volumes of the series, the authors will not feel the obligation of a restatement of national politics, but will devote a larger share of the necessarily limited space to a portraiture of character and to the molding influence of these characters upon these general policies. For example, pages 88-106 cover an account of the financial legislation of the Civil War with not a single reference to Sherman; in chapter VI., containing twenty-five pages of taxation, loans, and the national banking system, there are eighteen pages in which Sherman's name does not appear even by indirect reference; and in succeeding chapters on the Reconstruction period, at least two-thirds might with equal propriety be included in any volume of general history of post-bellum conditions.

Too often when Sherman is brought upon the stage, it is through long quotations from speeches taken from the *Congressional Record*. In vain one looks for any account of Sherman's reported activity in seeking Southern delegates for the presidential nomination; or, for an analysis of the complications in Ohio politics which perplex the general reader and make it difficult to understand the varying fortunes of the statesmen of that commonwealth. It is not idle curiosity or desire for amusement on the part of the reader to wish for more quotations from correspondence like the one given on page 296. In 1880 Sherman wrote: "The nomination of Arthur is a ridiculous burlesque, and I am

afraid was invited by the desire to defeat the ticket." Possibly it is too early as yet to publish much of Sherman's correspondence, but a gleaning of the newspapers would have given a large amount of color which could be justifiably used in the preparation of a biography. As a history of national politics in the last quarter-century, the volume is highly creditable. Criticism is directed against the editorial plan of the publishers rather than to individual shortcomings of Mr. Burton.

DAVIS R. DEWEY.

*Life of Edward H. Rollins: a Political Biography.* By JAMES O. LYFORD. (Boston: Dana Estes and Company. 1906. Pp. viii, 547.)

THE subject of this biography was a prominent figure in the political life of New Hampshire from 1854 to 1884. Although he early entered upon a business career and served as treasurer of the Union Pacific Railroad during the most critical years of its history, the scope of this volume makes its sub-title, *A Political Biography*, accurate. Edward H. Rollins was the efficient organizer of the Republican party in New Hampshire, the way for which had been prepared by John P. Hale, Amos Tuck, and their Free Soil associates, and the successful manager, as chairman of its state committee, of its campaigns for twenty years. Endowed with keen political instinct, talent for organization and leadership of men, he rose to the highest political honors of his state, being successively speaker of the New Hampshire legislature, member of Congress for three terms (1861-1867) and United States senator (1877-1883). The portrayal of his life reveals a practical politician of much strength with some of the defects of his class and a legislator who served well his day and generation.

The story of such a career naturally includes a brief account of each of the political campaigns in New Hampshire from 1855 to 1883, sketches of the chief actors in both parties and the part played by each, and as the author says, "has afforded opportunity for collecting and preserving facts connected with the political history of New Hampshire for this period, which, except for a work of this kind, are not likely to be gathered together". The addition of this material gives the book its largest value for most readers, and makes it in effect a narrative history of New Hampshire politics during the generation named. The campaigns described are of more than local interest. New Hampshire, the home of President Pierce, wrested from Democratic control in 1855 by the Know-Nothing coalition under Rollins's leadership, long remained a doubtful state. Further, its election, held annually in March until 1878 and so the first of the year in any part of the Union, made New Hampshire a pivotal state. Hence both political parties sought to win this election for its national effect, and these campaigns were fought largely on national issues. One result of this almost constant